

Remarks

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 29, 2002 in the above-identified application, Applicants have filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and have amended the claims herein. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Applicant's Attorney would like to thank the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview in this application on May 20, 2003. During the interview, the rejections of the claims in view of the Lin reference were discussed. Also proposed claim amendments were discussed. While the exact language of amendments was not discussed, it was generally agreed that amendments to the claims that more particularly recite the location of the path of the wires in the battery cap, and/or the use of strain relief devices in the cap should place the claims in allowable condition. As discussed below, amendments as proposed have been made to the claims.

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-10 and 17-21 were rejected as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Lin (U.S. Patent No. 5,389,462).

Claim 1 has been amended herein and is directed to an uninterruptible power supply for providing AC power to a load. The uninterruptible power supply includes an input, an output, an inverter to receive DC power and to provide AC power, a first connector electrically coupled to the inverter, and an energy storage device that provides the DC power. The energy storage device includes a plurality of terminals, a plurality of lead wires, each lead wire having a first end connected to one of the terminals of the energy storage device, a second connector adapted to connect to the first connector, each lead wire having a second end connected to the second connector, an energy storage device cap attached to the energy storage device and covering the terminals and the first end of each of the lead wires. The energy storage device cap has a housing that forms an opening through which the plurality of lead wires pass, an underside of the energy storage device cap is constructed and arranged to provide paths to route the plurality of lead wires to the plurality of terminals, and the energy storage device cap includes at least one strain relief portion that provides strain relief for each of the plurality of lead wires.

The admitted prior art of Fig. 1 of the application includes an uninterruptible power supply having among other things a battery to provide DC power. Lin discloses a storage battery

having a cover lid 13. The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to modify the battery of the admitted prior art to have a cap as taught by Lin.

In contrast with claim 1, neither the admitted prior art, Lin, nor the combination thereof, discloses or suggests an uninterruptible power supply having an energy storage device cap that has a housing that forms an opening through which a plurality of lead wires pass or ***an underside that is constructed and arranged to provide paths to rout the plurality of lead wires to a plurality of terminals*** as recited in claim 1. The admitted prior art does not include an energy storage device cap, and the cover lid of Lin does not include an opening or an underside having the limitations recited in claim 1. Further, neither the admitted prior art, Lin, nor the combination thereof, discloses or suggests a UPS having an energy storage device cap that includes ***at least one strain relief portion that provides strain relief for each of the plurality of lead wires***. Accordingly, claim 1 is distinguishable over the admitted prior art and Lin, and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103 should be withdrawn.

Claims 3-8 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 9 has been amended herein and is directed to an uninterruptible power supply for providing AC power to a load. The uninterruptible power supply includes an input, an output, an inverter to receive DC power and to provide AC power, a first connector electrically coupled to the inverter, and an energy storage device that provides the DC power, the energy storage device having a plurality of terminals and a plurality of leads wires, a first end of each of the lead wires connected to one of the terminals. The uninterruptible power supply also includes housing means for covering the terminals and the first end of each of the lead wires, the housing means forming an opening for receiving the plurality of lead wires and including means for routing each of the lead wires to one of the plurality of terminals and means for providing strain relief for each of the plurality of lead wires.

In contrast with claim 9, neither the admitted prior art, nor Lin, nor the proposed combination thereof discloses or suggests an uninterruptible power supply having housing means that form an opening for receiving a plurality of lead wires and including means for routing each of the lead wires to one of the plurality of terminals. In addition, neither the admitted prior art, Lin, nor the proposed combination discloses or suggests a UPS having a housing means that includes ***means for providing strain relief for each of the plurality of lead wires***. Accordingly,

claim 9 is distinguishable over the proposed combination of the admitted prior art and Lin, and the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103 should be withdrawn.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 17 is an independent claim directed to a method of installing a battery into an uninterruptible power supply, the uninterruptible power supply having a first connector to couple to a battery. The method includes providing a battery having a first terminal and a second terminal, providing a battery cap having an underside that contacts a top portion of the battery, and having a pair of lead wires integrated into the battery cap, the lead wires being contained in paths formed in the underside of the battery cap and passing out of the battery cap and terminating in a second connector, the lead wires passing out of the battery cap and terminating in a second connector, installing the battery cap on the battery such that each wire of the pair of lead wires mates with one of the first terminal and the second terminal, installing the battery into the uninterruptible power supply and mating the first connector with the second connector.

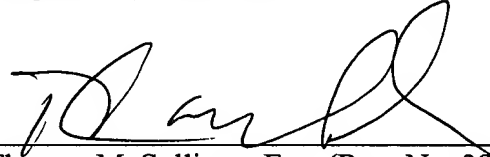
Claim 17 is patentable over the admitted prior art and Lin for reasons similar to claims 1 and 9 discussed above. Specifically, the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a method of installing a battery that includes, among other limitations, providing a battery cap having a pair of lead wires integrated into the battery cap, having an underside that contacts a top portion of the battery, and having a pair of lead wires integrated into the battery cap, the lead wires being contained in paths formed in the underside of the battery cap. Specifically, neither Lin, nor the admitted prior art, nor any combination thereof discloses a method that includes providing a battery cap ***having an underside that contacts a top portion of the battery, the lead wires being contained in paths formed in the underside of the battery cap.*** Accordingly, the rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

Claims 18-21 depend from claim 17 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

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Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Sullivan', written over a horizontal line.

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